(c) the details of the assistance proposals which have been accepted by Government; and

(d) the details of the action plan sanctioned for the development of Boddh pilgrim centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The loan agreements have been signed with Japan Bank for International Cooperation for loan assistance for the development of Buddhist sites in Mahrashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) A loan agreement for 7331 million Japanese Yen has been signed with Japan Bank for International Cooperation for the Conservation and Tourism Development of Ajanta Allora. This project will cover sites at Ajanta, Ellora, Pitalkora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar in Maharashtra.

A loan agreement for 9495 million Japanese Yen has also been entered with Japan Bank for International Cooperation for the Development of Buddhist Circuit in Uttar Pradesh. This project will cover sites at Sarnath, Kushinagar, Kapilvastu, Sravasti, Sankisa in Uttar Pradesh.

Declaration of ancient cities as heritage cities

1516. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare more ancient cities in the country as heritage cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government till date for protection and conservation of historical monuments particularly in the States of Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(d) whether Government have allocated any fund in the budget (2007-08) for this purpose and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not declare cities as heritage cities as there is no such provision in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(c) Under the provision of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, Archaeological Survey of India has protected 3667 monuments/sites as of national importance. In the State of Rajasthan and Orissa, 162 and 78 monuments/sites, respectively are declared as of national importance.

The conservation, preservation, structural repairs and environmental development of monuments/sites of national importance are undertaken in accordance with the archaeological norms subject to the availability of resources. Apart from regular watch and ward staff, private security guards and CISF at important monuments have also been deployed for physical protection of the monuments. Efforts have also been made to fence the protected areas.

(d) During the year 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 5611 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 5121 lakhs under Non Plan have been allocated for the conservation and preservation of the Centrally protected monuments/sites in the country. The State-wise/Circle-wise distribution is given in the statement.

Statement

Details of Allocation of funds for the year 2007-08 for conservation, preservaton, maintenance and environmental development of Centrally protected monuments/sites (Circle and State-wise)

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Name of the covered by the Circle	Plan (Rupees in lakhs)	Non-Plan (Rupees in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	375.00	230.00
2.	Aurangabad	Maharahstra	75.00	175.00
3.	Bangalore	Karnataka	425.00	350.00
4.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	275.00	310.00
5.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	200.00	150.00
6.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	250.00	275.00
7.	Chandigarh	Haryana and Punjab	225.00	210.00
8.	Delhi	Delhi	400.00	400.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Dehradun	Uttarakand	80.00	80.00
10.	Dharwad	Karnataka	300.00	275.00
11.	Goa	Goa	40.00	40.00
12.	Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya	00.00	50.00
13.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	425.00	225.00
14.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	135.00	150.00
15.	Kolkata	West Bengal and Sikkim	150.00	150.00
16.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	225.00	275.00
17.	Mumbai	Maharahstra	200.00	150.00
18.	Patna	Bihar and Uttar Pradesh	125.00	125.00
19.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	30.00	30.00
20.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	90.00	150.00
21.	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	180.00	130.00
22.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	75.00	40.00
23.	Trissur	Kerala and Tamil Nadu	125.00	100.00
24.	Vadodara	Gujarat	175.00	165.00
25.	Horticulture Branch	All States	535.00	650.00
26.	Science Branch	All States	410.00	160.00
		TOTAL:	5525.00	4990.00
		RESEVE:	86.00	76.00
		GRAND TOTAL:	5611.00	5121.00